

Remarks

By the present amendment, Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-12 remain pending. Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claims 2 and 8, respectively. All of the amendments can be supported by the specification of the present invention, and therefore there is no new matter added therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 2, 6, 8, and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, amended Claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of Claim 2, and amended Claim 7 now incorporates the limitations of Claim 8. For at least those reasons, the amended Claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the art of record. Further, dependent Claims 3-6 and 9-12 are patentable as a matter of law as depending from an allowable independent claim, notwithstanding their recitation of independently patentable subject matter.

Conclusions

The applicants believe they have responded to each matter raised by the Examiner. Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8233. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-5029.

Respectfully submitted,


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